

May 23, 1973

LB 378 provided that synthetic products that were displayed along with meat products had to be properly identified. There was a little confusion insofar as the original language of the bill is concerned. We had our bill drafter and Mr. Gilmore rework it to remove those objections so that the Department of Agriculture could enforce the law as it was amended and it does not materially affect the bill. I move the bill be re-advanced to E&R final.

PRESIDENT: I think we need to adopt the amendment here first.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I move the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Alright, now is there any further discussion of the amendment to the bill? Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, Mr. President, I'd like to have Loran Sch--Senator Schmit explain to me "contain a detailed statement of the ingredients and the nutritional value with the pricing information" pursuant. Now just how is a store or a business going to do that?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr.--pardon me, Senator Keyes, I believe that today the labeling and packaging laws provide for identification of all the products that are contained in a blended product so this is already in the law and it's a matter of--protection of the consumer because your experience, I'm sure, with the packing plants would make you knowledgeable of the area of the fact that sometimes products are blended that the public are not aware of. We feel that those of us in the livestock industry, that if you're going to have a product that simulates meat, that looks like meat and is displayed alongside of meat, that it should be identified as not being meat. It should not be identified as animal protein. It should be identified as a vegetable if that's what it is because this is what the amendment does and I'm sure that today the public is, is intelligent enough to make the right decision but they should have the proper information in regard to the product that they're buying.

PRESIDENT: Alright, next to speak then would be Senator Kelly then Senator Hasebroock.

SENATOR KELLY: It would appear--Mr. President and Members of the body. It would appear to me that the labeling laws on the packages are more than sufficient to cover any hiding of the binders that are in the various food products in the cases that appear to be red meat or poultry. It also seems to me to be a complete duplication and a waste of everybody's effort, including the person who reads the sign that's posted on the wall, that in this case there is going to be something that isn't what it's supposed to be. It really seems very superfluous to me. I don't consider it very good legislation at all.

SPEAKER: Senator Hasebroock.

SENATOR HASEBROOCK: Mr. President, Members of the Legislature. Would Senator Schmit yield to a question?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I yield, Senator Hasebroock.

SENATOR HASEBROOCK: Does this amendment mean that you can--display of this type of merchandise that may have an extender